

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

N.F.,

Plaintiff (s),

v.

PREMERA BLUE CROSS et al.,

Defendant (s).

CASE NO.  
2:20-cv-00956-JCC

ORDER REGARDING DISCOVERY  
AND DEPOSITIONS

IT IS ORDERED that:

(1) **DISCOVERY.** All discovery matters are to be resolved by agreement if possible. If a ruling is needed as to any discovery questions, and counsel wish to avoid the time and expenses of a written motion, they may obtain an expedited ruling through a telephone conference call to the court at (206) 370-8800. The parties are notified that, per Chambers practice, a law clerk will typically field the call and relate the issues to Judge Coughenour for his consideration.

(2) **DEPOSITIONS.** Depositions will be conducted in compliance with the following rules:

(a) **Examination.** If there are multiple parties, each side should ordinarily designate one attorney to conduct the main examination of the deponent, and any questioning by other counsel on that side should be limited to matters not previously covered.

(b) **Objections.** The only objections that should be raised at the deposition

1 are those involving a privilege against disclosure, or some matter that may be  
2 remedied if presented at the time (such as the form of the question or the  
3 responsiveness of the answer), or that the question seeks information beyond  
4 the scope of discovery. Objections on other grounds are unnecessary and should  
5 generally be avoided. All objections should be concise and must not suggest  
6 answers to, or otherwise coach, the deponent. Argumentative interruptions  
7 will not be permitted.

8 (c) **Directions Not to Answer.** Directions to the deponent not to answer  
9 are improper, except on the ground of privilege or to enable a party or deponent  
10 to present a motion to the court or special master for termination of the deposition  
11 on the ground that it is being conducted in bad faith or in such a manner as  
12 unreasonably to annoy, embarrass or oppress the party or the deponent, or for  
13 appropriate limitations upon the scope of the depositions (e.g., on the ground that  
14 the line of inquiry is not relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the  
15 discovery of admissible evidence). When a privilege is claimed, the witness should  
16 nevertheless answer questions relevant to the existence, extent or waiver of the  
17 privilege, such as the date of the communication, who made the statement in  
18 question, to whom and in whose presence the statement was made, other persons to  
19 whom the statement was made, other persons to whom the contents of the  
20 statement have been disclosed, and the general subject matter of the statement.

21 (d) **Responsiveness.** Witnesses will be expected to answer all questions  
22 directly and without evasion, to the extent of their testimonial knowledge, unless  
23 directed by counsel not to answer.

24 (e) **Private Consultation.** Private conferences between deponents and  
25 their attorneys during the actual taking of the deposition are improper, except  
26 for the purpose of determining whether a privilege should be asserted. Unless

1 prohibited by the court for good cause shown, such conferences may, however,  
2 be held during normal recesses and adjournments.

3 (f) **Conduct of Examining Counsel.** Examining counsel will refrain from  
4 asking questions he or she knows to be beyond the legitimate scope of discovery,  
5 and from undue repetition.

6 (g) **Courtroom Standard.** All counsel and parties should conduct  
7 themselves in depositions with the same courtesy and respect for the rules that are  
8 required in the courtroom during trial.

9 (3) **RESPONSIBILITY OF PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL.** This order is issued at  
10 the outset of the case, and a copy is delivered by the clerk to counsel for plaintiff.  
11 Plaintiff's counsel (or plaintiff, if pro se) is directed to deliver a copy of this order to  
12 each other party within ten (10) days after receiving notice of that party's appearance.

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14 DATED: June 24, 2020  
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17 /s/ John C. Coughenour  
18 John C. Coughenour  
19 United States District Judge  
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